

RETURN

[86]

To an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, of the 31st January, 1917, for a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments inviting them to a conference on the subject of making provisions for returned soldiers, including a copy of the proceedings of the conference which took place on the 10th of January at Ottawa on the same subject.

Copy of the following sent to each of the Provincial Premiers:—

OTTAWA, Ont.,
January 13, 1917.

Dear Mr. _____

The conference which has been held during the past two days between representatives of the Federal Government and representatives of the several Provincial Governments has been both interesting and instructive. The subjects under consideration were important and all points of view were brought to bear on the discussion.

For your information I beg to enclose copy of the following documents:—

1. Copy of despatch from the Colonial Secretary to the Governor General dated 21st September, 1916.
2. Copy of my letter to you dated 23rd September, 1916.
3. Copy of telegram from Colonial Secretary to the Governor General dated 15th December.
4. Copy of telegram from the Governor General to the Colonial Secretary dated 30th December.
5. Copy of telegram from Colonial Secretary to the Governor General dated 10th January.
6. Copy of memorandum given to the press at the conclusion of the conference.

The conference was made acquainted with the proposals of the Federal Government for assistance to soldiers who may desire to settle upon lands which are at the disposal of that Government.

It is desired that each Provincial Government shall afford, with the least possible delay, to the Federal Government, all the information referred to in the despatch of 21st September last. With respect to this the following suggestions are made:—

1. The information should be sent in printed form.
2. Not less than twenty-five copies should be forwarded.
3. It should set forth the condition of settlement, the size of the holdings and the extent of provincial assistance, if any, available.
4. It should set forth the situation, character, and quality of the provincial lands available, the opportunities for production and for the marketing of

7 GEORGE V, A. 1917

products, facilities for transportation, and all information of a like character which might influence the decision of an intending immigrant.

5. The opportunities for employment and any proposed measures or efforts of the Provincial Government in that regard should be stated.

6. The opportunities for vocational training or technical education within the province might be set forth with advantage.

7. Any other information which the Provincial Government might think useful for the purpose should also be included, especially any pamphlets which have been prepared for the purpose of making intending immigrants acquainted with the opportunities for settlement within the province.

May I venture to emphasize the necessity for prompt attention to the matter which was first placed before your Government in the month of September last.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. BORDEN.

Hon. Premier of _____.

Copy.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Colonial Secretary to the Governor General.

LONDON, September 21, 1916.

September 21. While His Majesty's Government feel necessity of finding openings at home for the largest possible number of ex-service men, I feel sure that there will be some emigration, and in these circumstances I think that time has arrived for taking practical steps for dealing with emigration problems that will arise after the war. His Majesty's Government regard it as of the first importance to the Empire that ex-soldiers who desire to emigrate shall be retained within it and not be allowed to drift abroad from want of guidance and knowledge of the opportunities available to them in the Dominions. We think it will be necessary to set up some central body on which each Dominion shall be represented to formulate plans and co-ordinate efforts. If your Government concur it will be doubtless also agreed that nothing useful can be done unless such body is in a position to supply full and detailed statement which will give intending emigrants all particulars as regards amount and quality of land offered for settlement, size of holdings, extent of government assistance, etc., and also openings for employment, if any, offered by Government. I gather from ministerial statements to Haggard that there is general desire throughout Dominions to co-operate in this, but that in most cases no concrete proposals have been yet formulated by Ministers, and that in no cases have details such as mentioned above been fully settled. We earnestly trust that your Ministers may be willing to apply themselves to this question forthwith and let me know with the least possible delay what they and their legislators are prepared to do. It is obvious, first, that time will be required for local consideration; secondly, that on the nature of the replies will depend action to be taken by His Majesty's Government in the way of co-operation and assistance; thirdly, that much organization will be required if successful results are to be obtained. I am therefore warranted in pressing matter on Ministers as one of urgency. When they are in a position to return definite replies they will doubtless also say whom they nominate as their representative on the central body. Similar telegram addressed to other Dominions.

BONAR LAW.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 86

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Copy of the following sent to each Provincial Premier:—

OTTAWA, ONT., September 23, 1916.

The Federal Government has received a despatch from the Colonial Secretary which states that the Imperial Government regard it as of first importance to the Empire that ex-soldiers who desire to emigrate shall be retained within the Empire and not be allowed to drift abroad from want of guidance and knowledge of the opportunities available to them in the dominions. In connection with the possible establishment of a central body to formulate plans and co-ordinate efforts the Colonial Secretary represents that nothing useful can be done unless such a body is in a position to supply a full and detailed statement which will give intending emigrants all particulars as regards amount and quality of land offered for settlement, sizes of holdings, extent of government assistance, etc., and also opportunities for employment, if any, offered by the Government.

It is further represented in the despatch alluded to that the information above mentioned ought to be furnished at the earliest possible date, as there is urgency in the matter.

I should be glad to receive from your Government for transmission to the Colonial Secretary such information on the subjects mentioned as may be available.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. BORDEN.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Code.

From the Colonial Office to the Governor General.

LONDON, December 15, 1916.

Should be glad to receive an early reply to my telegram September 21 as to emigration problems after the war.

LONG.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

OTTAWA, December 30, 1916.

Cable from His Excellency the Governor General to the Colonial Secretary.

Your cables twenty-first September, fifteenth December, respecting immigration problems. My advisers inform me that it has been difficult to collect necessary information and that conference of Provincial Governments is being called for tenth January. My advisers agree, generally speaking, in the views expressed in your cable twenty-first September.

DEVONSHIRE.

7 GEORGE V, A. 1917

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

Code.

From Colonial Secretary to Governor General.

LONDON, January 10, 1917.

January 9. With reference to your telegram 30th December, emigration of ex-service men, I shall await fuller expression of views of your Ministers after conference referred to; meanwhile it is essential, in view of widespread interest in this question, that we should be in position to announce composition of central body without delay; you should therefore urge your Ministers to nominate their representatives as soon as possible.

LONG.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

Statement of Proceedings of Conference given to the Press, January 11, 1917.

The conference just concluded between the Federal and the Provincial Governments arose out of a recent despatch from the British Government with respect to probable emigration to the Overseas Dominions of ex-soldiers from the United Kingdom. This despatch expressed the desire of the British Government to retain ex-soldiers within the United Kingdom as far as possible, but to co-operate with the Dominions in retaining them within the Empire in case they should desire to emigrate. Information was desired by the British Government which would afford to impending emigrants from the United Kingdom all particulars as regards amount and quality of land for settlement, size of holding, extent of government assistance, etc., and also openings for employment, if any, offered by the Governments of the Overseas Dominions. It was also proposed that a central body should be established in the United Kingdom to take such action as might be necessary there for this purpose, and the suggestion was made that each of the Overseas Dominions should be represented on that body. At the conference just concluded the discussion took a somewhat wide range, and the members of the conference found it both interesting and instructive. The outline of a proposal by the Federal Government for land settlement was submitted and discussed, and the proposals for the like purpose already enacted or under consideration by the various Provincial Governments also came up for consideration. It was arranged that full information should immediately be supplied to the Federal Government as to existing Provincial legislation, Orders in Council, etc., providing for land settlement or for employment to returned soldiers, together with full particulars as to amount, situation, and character of land available, conditions of homesteading, purchase, etc. The question of somewhat wider proposals in which the Federal Government should co-operate with the Provincial Governments for land settlement was also under discussion; and this discussion touched the question of settlement upon lands now in private ownership but not in use for productive purposes. The great necessity of increased production was universally realized, and there was a hearty spirit of co-operation by all the Governments for that most vital and important object.

Proposals with respect to increased facilities for loans to the rural population and as to the best method of co-operation between the Federal and the Provincial Governments for that purpose were also considered.

As to employment, it was ascertained that in the various provinces preference would be given in the Civil Service to ex-soldiers, and that this preference would doubtless be extended to public works. A warm desire on the part of all the Governments to assist generally in obtaining employment for returned soldiers, or for soldiers emigrating to Canada, was also manifest.

The question of technical education was also discussed, and suggestions as to possible co-operation by the Federal Government with the Provincial Governments in that regard were favourably considered.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 86

Telegram.

NEW YORK, January 9, 1917.

Sir ROBERT L. BORDEN,
Ottawa, Ont.

Will leave for Ottawa to-night; pleased to be present at conference.

ARTHUR L. SIFTON.

Telegram.

REGINA, Sask., January 8, 1917.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN,
Ottawa.

Hon. J. A. Calder will represent Saskatchewan Government at conference; regret cannot personally attend.

W. M. MARTIN.

Telegram.

OTTAWA, Ont., January 9, 1917.

Hon. A. L. SIFTON,
The Biltmore,
New York, N.Y.

Invitation to attend meeting of Federal and Provincial Governments respecting settlement and employment of British soldiers emigrating to Canada after war has been arranged for to-morrow and Thursday. Telegraphic invitation was sent you at Edmonton on 30th December. Earnestly hope you can attend.

R. L. BORDEN.

Telegram.

HALIFAX, N.S., January 6.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN,
Ottawa.

Hon. R. M. Macgregor will represent Government of Nova Scotia at conference referred to in your telegram.

G. H. MURRAY.

REGINA, January 3, 1917.

MY DEAR SIR ROBERT,—Your telegram of 30th December with regard to the conference of Federal and Provincial Governments to be held on Wednesday, January 10, at Ottawa, reached me in due course. I regret exceedingly that it will be impossible for any of the members of the Saskatchewan Government to be present. My regret is the greater when I consider the important subject which is to be discussed at that conference, and I am exceedingly sorry that I cannot attend the gathering personally.

Yours faithfully,

W. M. MARTIN.

Sir ROBERT L. BORDEN, G.C.M.G.,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Canada.

7 GEORGE V, A. 1917

Telegram.

VICTORIA, B.C., January 5, 1917.

Sir ROBERT L. BORDEN,
Ottawa.

Replying your wire 30th, have arranged to be in Ottawa, 10th, and will represent province at conference personally.

H. C. BREWSTER.

TORONTO, January 2, 1917.

DEAR SIR ROBERT,—I have your message of the 30th ult., and note that a conference of the Federal and Provincial Governments will be held on Wednesday, January 10, at Ottawa, to consider the question of provision for ex-soldiers who may emigrate to Canada, and I will be glad to see that my Government is represented at that conference. I am afraid it may not be possible for me to attend personally, but if not I will arrange for one or more of my Ministers to attend.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. HEARST.

Right Honourable Sir ROBERT BORDEN,
Ottawa, Canada.

Telegram.

QUEBEC, Que., January 4, 1917.

Sir R. L. BORDEN,
Premier, Ottawa.

In reply to your telegram of 30th ult., am sending the Honourable J. L. Lecarie and the Honourable W. G. Mitchell, to represent my Government at the proposed conference between the Federal Government and the Governments of the different provinces to be held on the 10th instant.

LOMER GOUIN.

Telegram.

FREDERICTON, N.B., January 2, 1917.

Hon. Sir ROBERT L. BORDEN,
Ottawa.

Government of New Brunswick will be represented at conference of Federal and Provincial Governments called for Wednesday, January 10, at Ottawa.

GEO. J. CLARKE.

Telegram.

WINNIPEG, Man., January 2, 1917.

Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT L. BORDEN,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Message December 30 received; as our House opens on the 11th am afraid it will not be possible for me to attend; will, however, arrange for some representative of Government to be present at Conference.

T. C. NORRIS.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 86

C. P. Telegraph.

OTTAWA, Ont., December 30, 1916.

Hon. Premier of _____

With reference to my letter of September last, respecting despatch from the Colonial Secretary, as to provision for ex-soldiers who may emigrate to Canada, it is desired that a conference of the Federal and Provincial Governments shall be held on Wednesday, 10th January, at Ottawa, and you are respectfully requested to attend that conference, or to send a representative or representatives of your Government for that purpose. The Federal Government has reached a conclusion as to measures which it will propose to Parliament in that regard and also for making provision for returned Canadian soldiers in connection with land settlement and otherwise.

R. L. BORDEN.

Copy of foregoing sent to each Provincial Premier.

